

# THE COUNTRY COURIER.

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## THE COUNTRY COURIER.

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This paper is published twice a week, MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, on a large super royal sheet, in an octavo form, so that if the numbers are preserved, they will make two volumes in each year, each volume containing about eight hundred pages; making sixteen hundred pages a year, free of Advertisements, for the small sum of FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR.

The profit which can be made from such a paper is very small; and it is therefore, necessary that a rigid system of *punctuality* should be established and adhered to. This can only be done by insisting on payment in advance. That system will be hereafter scrupulously adhered to, without respect of persons.

It will follow, we trust, not less conclusively, that we ought not to be subjected to postage.

Upon these terms we are willing to publish the Country Courier, and whether we have to print it for fifty subscribers or a thousand, upon no other terms shall, or can we publish it.

To publishers of Newspapers in the United States and elsewhere.

It is requested that such of you as publish daily papers, will give the above an insertion, and the favor will be returned whenever requested. To others we have in particular to propose, that they give the above as many insertions as will make up the difference between the price of their papers and this.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 16.

The large brick building in Broadway, next to Grace Church, belonging to John R. Livingston, Esq. has been leased for a Banking House, for the U. S. Branch Bank.

Gen. GAINES's station is yet on the Southern frontier, whither he proceeds in a few days.

Capt. NICHOLSON, of the Navy, is at present in this city.

Maj. Gen. SCOTT, of the Army of the U. States, and Capt. WARRINGTON, of the Navy, are at present at Richmond. It is said that Gen. S. has a furlough from service, and that he is engaged in the compilation of a book on military police. *Nat. Intel.*

## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11.

Mr. Middleton, from S. C. and Mr. Root, from N. Y. appeared this day.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from George Graham, the acting Secretary of

war, in compliance with a resolution moved some days ago by Mr. Reynolds, transmitting a statement of the proceedings of the commissioners for laying out and opening a road from Reynoldsburg, on the Tennessee river, through the Chickasaw nation.

### CORPS OF INVALIDS.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill for the relief of the infirm, disabled and superannuated officers and soldiers of the army of the United States of the revolutionary war, and of the late war, and of militia disabled in the late war. [This bill contemplates the establishment of a Corps of Invalids.] The bill was twice read and committed.

### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

Mr. Wilde, of Geo. from the committee to whom that part of the President's message was referred, made the following report:

The committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred so much of the President's message as relates to the subject of a national university, report to the house, as the result of their deliberations, a bill for the erection and endowment of such an institution.

The committee pursuant to usual forms, might perhaps, without impropriety, regard this as a sufficient performance of their duty, and after presenting the bill, without comment, have left it to find its appropriate place among others, and to receive or be denied consideration, according to the opinion entertained of its consequence and urgency.

But the number of communications relative to this subject, which though they have received attention, seem to have escaped it, because they have not been definitively acted on, may possibly expose the house to a censure more serious than that of merely neglecting the successive recommendations of several Chief Magistrates—a censure as injurious as unjust, yet not unbecoming that body to prevent, by making, as soon as possible, some disposition of a question that ought to be determined, on account of its frequent occurrence, even though it should not otherwise be thought particularly interesting.

No room will then be afforded for even supposing the National Legislature indifferent to an object, admitted by most persons to be desirable, and by many believed to be now both practicable and expedient; justice will be done to the representatives of the people without detracting any thing from executive merit; that confidence, which is the chief strength of our government, will be preserved, and public opinion enlightened by discussion, expressing itself at length decisively on the proposed measure, will either require its adoption, sanction its rejection, or acquiesce in its postponement, until the necessity becomes more obvious, or the difficulties that oppose it can be more easily removed.

Your committee, therefore, have ventured to suggest some of the reasons which recommend the present as a favorable time for investigating, and perhaps also for adopting, the plan they have proposed.

Among these, the prosperous state of our finances, leaving a large unappropriated surplus, the



probability of a long continued peace, the flourishing condition of our Capital, and the facility with which a portion of the public property within it might now be advantageously disposed of, so as at once to increase the convenience of the city, and support the proposed institution, may fairly be enumerated.

Besides, the information heretofore collected has enabled the committee to report at an early period, and it is believed that the present session, though inevitably a short one, will not present so many objects of great difficulty or deep interest, as entirely to exclude others of a more tranquil and less obtrusive character, to which it is possible a portion of time might be profitably devoted.

The acquisition of a scientific and literary reputation, not unworthy of their naval and military renown, can never be beneath the ambition of a people, since the most durable of all glory is that of exalted intellect.

The world is still a willing captive to the spells of ancient genius; and the rivalry of modern empires will be perpetuated by their arts and learning, the preservers of that fame which arms alone may indeed win, but can never keep.

Any measure which contributes however remotely, to give American literature a rank and name among mankind, cannot therefore be regarded with indifference by our citizens; and every effort towards that end must be witnessed at the present moment with unusual satisfaction, since it will present the interesting spectacle of a young nation, bending its whole strength to the pursuit of true greatness, and anxious to emulate all that is amiable in peace as well as all that is noble in war.

That the institution contemplated will have a happy influence on the harmony of our country and the unity of our national character, has been often supposed, and your committee feel inclined to anticipate effects no less happy from its operation on the genius of our people.

If American invention, unassisted as it has been, already excites the astonishment of Europe, what may not be expected from it when aided and encouraged? and why should not aid and encouragement be yielded by institutions like the present, founded and endowed by the munificence of the state. In our own day we have seen them work wonders in physical science, even when directed by a stern, jealous, and exacting government, which, while training the mind to be quick, dexterous and daring, darkened its vision and circumscribed its flight. Is it here alone they would be impotent where no depth could be hidden from its glance, no height forbidden to its wing?

But your committee, fearful of exhausting your patience, forbear to extend this report by arguments which it is easier to multiply than to withhold: for the same reason they refrain from answering objections which could not be stated without injury, since, in replying to them, force and perspicuity must be sacrificed to conciseness.—Nor can such a course be required where it is intended merely to present a general result, not the particular process of reasoning by which that result has been obtained. Your committee however desire it to be understood, that they have not declined examining any objection which occurred to them, and though some have been found which it must be confessed are not without difficulty, all are thought capable of a satisfactory answer.

Under a conviction therefore that the means

are ample, the end desirable, the object fairly within the legislative powers of Congress, and the time a favorable one, your committee recommend the establishment of a National University, and have directed their chairman to submit a bill and estimates for that purpose."

*Estimate of the value of Lots and Squares belonging to the United States, as furnished by a communication from the Superintendent of the city.*

4000 building lots of 5265 square feet each, and about 2000 feet front on the waters of the Potomac river, Eastern Branch, valued at \$750,000

Squares 1 to 6, proposed to be laid off into building lots, containing, in the whole, 816,000 square feet, or 155 standard lots valued at 200,000

But the latter amount is the only one which it is supposed could be speedily realized.

*Estimate of the expense of buildings for the National University, on a plan susceptible of extension, but calculated for the present to answer for 160 persons.*

Buildings (which it was supposed last year might be completed in the year 1818.)

1. Habitations for the principal and six professors, two buildings, 75 by 54 feet, thirty thousand dollars each. \$60,000

2. Lodgings for 160 students, refectory, (temporarily in the basement story) fuel and provision, cellars, servants' apartments, 265 feet by 46, 75,000

3. Lecture Rooms at the S. W. angle, steward's apartment, &c. 75 feet square, 45,000

4. Planting and enclosing, 20,000

\$200,000

The bill was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Forsyth, the committee of Ways and Means were instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing to the state of Georgia 15 per centum on the amount of the direct tax for the present year, assumed and paid by the State; but, it appears, not notified to the Treasury officers within the time necessary to entitle the state to the discount.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Mr. Pickens, of N. C. rose to propose an amendment to the constitution of the U. States; on which, having on former occasions expressed his views, he would now only remark, that only once had the question ever been really tried in this House, and that was at a moment of great public embarrassment, not favorable to a mature deliberation on its merits. This was the first fair occasion of presenting the subject fully for consideration. Several of the states, had, since the first agitation of the question in the House, given to the proposition their sanction and recommendation, among which were Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Virginia; and it had at one session, received the sanction of the Senate of the U. S. If ever there was a period favorable to a proper amendment of the constitution, it was the present moment, when we are literally at peace, at home



and abroad. Mr. P. then introduced the following resolution :

*Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring therein, That the following amendment to the constitution of the United States be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, which when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the said States, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said constitution.*

For the purpose of choosing of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its Legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of Representatives to which the state may be entitled.

Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, equal numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.

In each district the qualified voters shall elect one Representative.

For the purpose of choosing Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its Legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of Electors to which the State may be entitled.—Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be equal numbers; which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to serve for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons. In each district, the persons qualified to vote for Representatives in the Congress of the United States, shall choose one Elector, the Legislature of each state shall have power to regulate the manner of holding elections, and making returns of the Electors chosen. In case all the Electors shall not meet at the time and place appointed for giving their votes, a majority of the Electors met shall have power, and forthwith shall proceed, to supply the vacancy.

A division of the States into districts, for choosing Representatives in the Congress of the United States, and into districts for choosing Electors of President and Vice-President of the U. States, shall take place, as soon as conveniently may be, after each enumeration and appointment of Representatives shall be made, which districts shall remain unaltered, until after the succeeding enumeration and appointment of Representatives.

The resolution was read a first and second time, and referred to a committee of the whole House on the state of the Union.

On motion of Mr. Goldsborough, of Md. the committee on Naval Affairs were instructed to enquire into the expediency of passing a supplementary act to the act of the last session, authorising the payment of a sum of money to Joseph Stewart and others.

Mr. Hopkinson of Pa. after stating the actual or contemplated departure of Mr. Sargeant, a member of this House from Pennsylvania, for Europe, and the little advantage and the needless trouble an Election to supply his place for a short remainder of this session would afford, which consideration prevented Mr. S. from resigning his seat—moved, that Mr. Sergeant have leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

This motion, was objected to by Mr. Forsyth, as unprecedented and incorrect, inas-

much as the member in question had not appeared in his seat at the present session, and could not have leave of absence, where he had not been present.

Hence arose a brief debate.

Mr. Pitkin, Mr. Hopkinson, Mr. Grosvenor, and others supported the motion, on the ground of precedents somewhat analogous, and on the merit of Mr. Sargeant's claim to this indulgence, on account of the importance to the public of the business he had undertaken.

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Southard, opposed the motion as well because without precedent applicable to the case, as without a foundation in right or reason. It was no sufficient excuse, it was contended, particularly by Mr. Nelson, for a member of this house to abandon his duties, that he had accepted another post of honour or of profit, his duties and obligations in and to this house being paramount to any other except those of necessity, &c

By some gentlemen, both for and against the motion, it was contended and admitted, that Mr. Sargeant's absence was a question between him and his constituents, with which the House had no concern. But, on the other hand, it was objected, that to pass a vote giving him leave of absence, would be sanctioning what was certainly a relinquishment of his public duties.

At length, Mr. Hopkinson, varied his motion, so as to stand thus—that Mr. Sargeant be excused from attending the House for the remainder of the session.

To this also Mr. Forsyth objected, considering it in substance the same as the first.

The question on agreeing to it was then taken. There were

For the motion 74

Against it 81

So the motion was rejected.

On motion of Mr. Scott, of Missouri,

*Resolved, That the committee on public lands be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making further provision by law for the final adjustment of land claims in Missouri territory, and transferring the final settlement of the claims to the register and receiver of the land office, together with some third person, to act as a board of commissioners for the same.*

Mr. Forsyth moved for the consideration of his motion for requesting the President to order the further execution of the claims law to be suspended till Congress should have acted on it.

On the question to proceed to consider the same, it was decided in the negative.

Mr. Hugh Nelson, of Va. moved a resolution in the following words :

*Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of*



making provision for the widows and orphans of those militia who, after their return home to their place of residence, may have died of diseases contracted whilst in the service of the United States.

The necessity of this motion being questioned by Mr. Condict, on the ground of the law of the last session embracing such cases—

It was supported by Messrs. Hugh Nelson, P. P. Barbour and Burwell of Virginia, who stated that the law of last session embraced the cases of those dying on the road home, but did not include the cases of those who reached their own doors before they fell a sacrifice to disease.

The motion was then agreed to, *nem. con.* Adjourned.

#### IN SENATE.—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12.

Mr. Troup, from Georgia, and Mr. Goldsborough, from Maryland, appeared and took their seats.

The two Senators from Indiana, Walter Taylor and James Noble, (the act of her admission into the Union having been consummated) produced their credentials, and were qualified.

The usual ceremony of classing them, by lot took place; when it appeared that Mr. Noble was assigned to the class of Senators whose term of service expires on the 3d of March, 1821, and Mr. Taylor to that whose term expires on the 3d of March 1819.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12.

Mr. Moore, from South Carolina; Mr. Wiloughby, from New-York; and Mr. Randolph, from Virginia, appeared to-day.

Mr. Wright, of Md. from the committee to whom the subject was referred, reported a bill "to authorize the settlement and payment of certain claims for the services of militia." This bill requires the accounting officers of the Treasury to credit and settle all accounts for services of any detachments of militia called into service under the authority of the states for the defence of any part of the United States against the invasion of the enemy during the late war, in the same manner and on the same principles as accounts for the services of militia called out under the authority of the United States—payment therefor to be made in six per cent. stock, to be created for the purpose, provided the states interested shall accept the same as full satisfaction of their claims. The bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the Military committee, reported a bill to establish three additional Military Academies, (one in this district, one at Mount Dearbon, South Carolina, and one in the vicinity of Newport, Ken. at

the confluence of Ohio and Licking rivers.) The bill received the usual readings, and was committed to the same committee to whom was committed the bill for the establishment of a corps of invalids.

Mr. Condict, of N. J. from a select committee, reported a bill supplementary to the act heretofore passed "for the encouragement of Vaccination."—Read, &c.

Mr. Wilde of Geo. offered for consideration the following resolution, under the impulse of positive information of its necessity; to prevent frauds committed by the sales of vessels abroad, and discharging the seamen without payment of their wages, &c.

"Resolved, That the committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to enquire what alterations are necessary in the several acts for the government and regulation of seamen in the merchant service, and for the relief of sick and disabled seamen, or of those discharged abroad after the sale of their vessels."

After some observations from Mr. Smith of Md. respecting existing laws and usages on this subject, and by Mr. Wilde, the resolution was agreed to.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Nath'l. Williams, was read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate.

On motion of Mr. McLean, of Ky. the committee to whom was referred the Acting Secretary of War's letter on the same subject, were instructed to enquire into the expediency of opening a road from Reynoldsborough in the state of Tennessee, to intersect the Natchez road, as viewed and marked by the commissioners appointed for that purpose.

On motion of Mr. T. M. Nelson, of Va.

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to enquire into the expediency of making provision for the payment of such arrearages of military clothing as may be due to soldiers discharged from the army of the United States.

Mr. Bennett offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying the act laying duties on retailers of wines, spirituous liquors, and foreign merchandize.

Mr. Lowndes of S. C. remarked, that, as a member of the committee of ways and means, he certainly could have no objection to any enquiry which the House might direct; but, in his opinion, there never had been a moment when there was less inducement to repeal this tax than now—and stronger reasons might perhaps be adduced for increasing than for reducing it. He had risen only to say, that he did not wish those who, with him, would vote for the enquiry, because requested by a member, to be considered as at all



pledged to co-operate in the ultimate object of the mover.

The Resolve was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. *Fletcher*, of Ky. the committee of pensions were instructed to enquire into the expediency of placing Joseph Wilkinson on the pension list, in consideration of wounds received in the revolutionary war.

#### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.

On motion of Mr. *Wendover* of N. Y. the House proceeded to the consideration of his motion to appoint a committee to enquire into the expediency of altering the flag of the United States.

Mr. *Wendover* said, he deemed it improper in the present stage of the business, to discuss the merits of the proposition to alter the flag, as the object of his motion was enquiry only. As to any essential alteration, he hoped no man in the House would consent to change a flag, under which had been falsified the predictions of European orators and paragraphists, when they said the Yankee cock-boats were to be speedily driven from the ocean. His object, Mr. W. said, was to make an unessential variation. When first adopted, the flag bore one star and one stripe for every state; when two additional states entered the Union, the flag had been altered by a special act, by the addition of two stars and stripes which made the flag correspond to the fact. Since that alteration, four states have been added, and the flag remains the same. Conceiving this not to be correct, and that the flag might be appropriately altered, he hoped the House would consent to the proposed enquiry.

Mr. *Robertson*, of Louisiana said, he had, for his part, no objection to the proposed alteration; and suggested the expediency of some general law for altering the flag in future, by proclamation of the Executive, on the admission of new states into the Union.

Mr. *Taylor*, of N. Y. was in favour of the inquiry, and for a reason different from that assigned by his colleague. He had been informed by naval gentlemen, that our flag could be seen and recognized on the ocean at a greater distance than that of any other nation. If the stripes and stars were increased, the flag would become less distinct to distant observation; which Mr. T. was desirous to prevent, and therefore was in favour of restoring the flag to its original character of *thirteen* stars and stripes, and establishing it permanently the same.

The motion of Mr. *Wendover* was agreed to, and a committee ordered to be appointed accordingly.

#### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, &c.

Mr. *Atherton*, of N. H. offered for consideration a resolution embracing the proposition of an amendment to the constitution of the United States, in the following words:

"The Congress shall have power to establish a National University."

And on the usual question, will the House now proceed to the consideration of the resolution, it was decided in the negative, thus

For considering it	54
Against it	86

On motion of Mr. T. M. *Nelson*, of Va. (who suggested the great economy and saving to the U. States, as well as benefit to the soldiers, of such a provision, it was

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a commutation for money of the bounty land to soldiers of the regular army, and that they report thereon by bill or otherwise.

Mr. *Root*, of N. Y. prefaced a motion he rose to make, by some observations to shew the severity of the operation of the carriage tax, on that description of carriages, (light wagons, &c.) used by farmers and people in moderate circumstances, on farming and market business and occasionally carrying their families to church, or to see their neighbors, &c. and argued that, as the faith of the United States was no longer pledged to retain the tax, it could be dispensed with without prejudice to the public service. He then moved,

That the committee of Ways and Means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the law laying a tax on carriages, &c. as relates to carriages and harness, not exceeding one hundred dollars in value.

Mr. *Wright*, of Md. moved to amend this motion so as to strike out the limit to 100 dollars in value, and thus to include an enquiry into the expediency of repealing the whole law. He predicated this motion on the inequality of the operation of this whole tax, which was very grievous in some sections of the country, whilst in the larger proportion it was scarcely felt.

Mr. *Desha*, of Ky. was opposed to Mr. *Wright's* motion, thinking that no tax could be more equitable than a tax on luxury and expensive habits. As to the inequality of the tax, it was more than counterbalanced by the inequality, in an inverse proportion, of other taxes, &c.

Mr. *Wright's* amendment was lost; and Mr. *Root's* motion carried, but not by a large majority. Adjourned.

*Retrospect.*—Only twice thirteen years have elapsed since the opinion was general in this country, and widely prevalent in Europe, that republican governments were about to succeed almost every where to monarchies. The dawn of the revolution in France was hailed here with bursts of joy; we say not without distinction of parties, for at that time party was scarcely known amongst us. There was indeed a variance of sentiment respecting the adoption of what was then called the federal constitution of government; but no sooner was that important matter decided, than harmony prevailed again, and continued to prevail in the councils of the nation, and among the people, till the violent efforts of several leading characters to embark this country in the cause of France, gave birth to the deplorable schism which rent us in twain.

Many of the first revolutionary leaders in France (*Fayette* for one instance) were in-



fluenced no doubt by honorable and patriotic motives. They misjudged. They imagined they could direct and limit the whirlwind and storm in which nearly all of them miserably perished.

The great, the awful experiment, was tried; and, upon trial, it has been found that republican forms of government were incompatible with the genius, the morals, and the habits of the French; that more of horrible tyranny was exercised and more of horrible misery inflicted in a few short years, by upstart demagogues calling themselves republicans, than by all the monarchs of western Europe in the space of two centuries back.

The great, the awful experiment, has been tried; and the result is that the number of European kings is increased, while the little republics of that quarter are every one blotted out of existence.

No where in Europe, not even in France, has there been manifested of late the least disposition toward a republican government, unless, with the celebrated French writer Montesquieu, we may call England a republic; for the summit of the hopes and wishes of the remnant of noted republicans in France, was to indentify the French constitution with that of England, as fully appears from the following document.

In a letter from the Duke of Otranto, (Fouche) president of the provisional government of France, to the Duke of Wellington, dated June 28, 1815, are these remarkable expressions to the point:—

"The French nation wishes to live under a Monarch. She also wishes, that this monarch should govern under the empire of the laws."

"The republic has taught us, how fatal is the excess of liberty; the empire, how fatal is the excess of power. Our desire, and it is unchangeable, is to see the independence, the order and the peace of Europe placed at an equal distance from both these extremes."

"Every one in France looks to the constitution of England.—We do not pretend to be more free than she is; we will never consent to be less so."

Now it ought to be remembered that the Duke of Otranto and Carnot, and Fayette, and several other members of the then provisional government, were of the body of the old republicans, and doubtless in the above cited paragraphs they expressed the sentiments of their French brethren of the same school.

What then? Does it follow that free republican government is not the best, because the hundred million of Europeans either view it with scorn, or regard it as impracticable? By no means. It unquestionably is the best—for a people generally enlightened and virtuous; whereas under the manage-

ment of a people generally ignorant, or vicious, it utterly corrupts, and becomes, as in France, of all governments the worst.

[Conn. Courier.]

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17.

MR. PICKEN'S MOTION. Our readers will have observed in the proceedings of Congress, published in yesterday's Courier, a motion made by this gentleman for amendments to the federal constitution, for the purpose

1. Of dividing every state in the Union into districts, for the choice of members of the House of Representatives, each district to choose one representative, and no more.
2. Of a like division into districts, for the choice of electors of President and Vice President.

The propositions, as thus stated we have long considered to be the only remedy for the intrigue and corruption, which disgrace the political history of the Union; for destroying the ascendancy which a particular state may establish over the rest, and which even now we are in danger of seeing perpetuated in *Virginia*. It is the only plan by which Caucusses, or other forestalling combinations can be effectually resisted. A few influential men in a particular district may be induced to assert their opinions; but in a general state ticket it would be hopeless, unless assured of support elsewhere. In the present mode of appointing electors either by a general ticket, or by the legislature, *management* performs every thing. The same man may feel himself strong enough to engage in the conflict of a district, who would despair of success in encountering the dominant party of the state.

As to *Representatives*, when they are elected by General Ticket in a state the minority have no participation whatever.

As to *Electors*, the people can scarcely be said to have any choice in them.

We shall never be found the advocates of any other than a sound, energetic government. But we believe an administration can never be so energetic as when it is composed of men who derive their power directly from *the people*. The people are entitled to the utmost liberty of *choice*; and having made their choice they are bound to the strictest obedience. That obedience which is the consummation of social felicity, is never so cheerfully rendered, as to men whose power has been warmed into life, not by artful contrivances, corrupt caucusses, and court combinations, but by the people's confidence and affection. Perhaps the whole secret of the uninterrupted permanency of our happy political institutions, may be found in the universal knowledge of popular *right*, and



popular duty. And as long as elections are so conducted as that the whole people may spontaneously and cheerfully exclaim these are the men of our choice—a choice free, uncontrouled, and not forestalled: so long will our system of government remain not only unendangered, but undisturbed.

It is however, a melancholy truth, and politicians of all parties know it, that the people do not choose their President. And so long as caucusses continue so long may it easily happen, that the President may be chosen, and by an overwhelming majority too, who would not have been the people's choice, if they had been permitted to select for themselves. Nay every man in this union, feels at this moment, that Mr. Monroe, is a sort of half dead and alive abortion of party labor, for whom the body even of his own party feel neither respect nor affection. From the very manner of his election, it is impossible the people should love him, as *their* President—for, he was made, not *by* them, but *for* them. Every man in the Union feels that it was impossible to resist his election, not because he was the *public choice*; but that his opposers had not the means of combining effectually against him. What man in Georgia, Carolina, N. Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, or any other solid democratic state, could hope to gain his state against him? He had opposers enough in the caucus—but none elsewhere. If the electors had been chosen by districts, even with the advantage of the caucus in his favor it is more than probable he would not have been elected.

Of Mr. Monroe, therefore, it may be truly said, that he is the *first* American President, who was not the people's choice.

If we go on much longer in this way, that affection which the people should feel for their rulers will no longer exist at all. The people will feel that they are but *instruments*; and they will go hereafter, as they have done, the past Autumn, through the forms of election, with the same stupid apathy, and moping dullness with which a blind horse, draws after him the stone wheel of a bark-mill.

Elections, by districts, would be calculated to make the people feel that they had some power in this Republican Government.

There is one point, however, though it is merely of detail, in which we think *Mr. Pickens* very wrong.

When the slave holding States were allowed a representation for three fifths of their States, it was a *concession* to them by the other States. But when a State is to be divided into districts, it is certainly preposterous that *two thousand* freemen should choose a Representative, or an elector, in a district, because there are also in it, five thousand negro slaves; and that in another district, five thousand freemen should choose no more.

The State indeed, has, by the other States, been allowed more members than its *free population* entitles it to; but that does not warrant a departure from principles of *equal representation*, among the freemen of the State. It is full as absurd, as that the Borough of old Sarum, having perhaps half a dozen electors, should choose a Member of Parliament, when Liverpool has no more.

In fact, the *equal representation of the freemen*, is a principle at the base of this government, the want of it will in time produce convulsions, unless the people shall become insensible to justice and their rights.—A calamity which we pray Heaven long to avert from this free and envied nation.

*Extraordinary Law Opinion, by Mr. Justice Swanton.*—The Advocate of Saturday contains a report of a trial for shaving a passenger at sea, upon reaching Newfoundland, on a voyage from England. After the evidence was closed Mr. Swanton, is stated to have laid down the law to the jury in the following words:

"After taking into consideration the wounded feelings of the plaintiff, on the one hand, and the circumstances of the defendants on the other, it would be the duty of the jury to render such a verdict as — — *they considered just and equitable!*"

"*A Daniel—a second Daniel, come to judgment!*"

#### Price Current for December, 1816.

**SNOW.** Said to be very plenty, and continually falling, up the river. A great glut apprehended. It is expected, however, that *Rain, Thaw and Co.* will take off great quantities by spring. If so, we expect to receive some by water.

**COLD.** Some scattering parcels have been imported by the late North-westerns, and sent to sea.

**MUD.** In great plenty, and of the first quality, constantly increasing. No demand either by the corporation or scavengers. We understand that *Mr. Grant Thorburn* intends to make an application to the common council, for a lease of one of the principal streets to plant some seeds of his big pumpkin in, next spring, he keeping the hogs out, at his own expence.

**PORT FOLIO AND ANALECTIC MAGAZINE,** have both fallen very much, on poor *Crystalina*—and in public estimation.

**CONGRESS.** Not expected to rise till the beginning of March.

**VIRGINIA PRESIDENTS.** No more expected till next spring—a favorite article.

**HOLMES'S ARITHMETIC.** Great quantities put off in Maine—but very dull at Boston.

**HARD TIMES.** In great plenty—but in no demand. The market has been overstocked with this article—to the great embarrassment of trade.

**SHINNING.** Is all the go.

**LAWYERS.** We understand there is a great scarcity—among them.

*Mr. Gardenier.*

I am astonished that you should have the



hardihood to attempt to force upon us a belief, that the poem *Crystalina* possesses any merit, when you yourself acknowledge explicitly, that it is an *American* production. And I wonder you should have suffered a reply to the *Analectic Magazine* to appear in your paper, in defence of it Being an *American* production, and being published in *New-York*, and not in *Philadelphia*, how was it possibly to be expected that the *Analectic* should do other wise than condemn it.

*Q. in a Corner.*

ALEX. C. HANSON is elected a Senator in Congress from Maryland, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of R. G. Harper.

*Melancholy Accident*—Yesterday morning the boiler of one of the N. Y. Steam boats burst, by which accident, Mr. Robertson, the Engineer, a young lad, and two children were severely injured; a Mr. Dodd, was slightly scalded. This boat has been recently built at Elizabethtown, N. J. and is intended as a regular ferry boat between this city and Elizabethtown Point. From the latter place she arrived this day. The Engineer was letting off the steam, when the accident occurred.

## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

• FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13.

Amongst the petitions presented to-day, was one by Mr. Archer, of Md. from a number of the inhabitants of Hartford county, Md. stating the almost total failure of the crops of corn, their inability to provide it in sufficient quantities for their support, and praying the interposition of Congress, by a temporary prohibition of the exportation of grain. Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

### TONNAGE DUTIES.

Mr. Lowndes, of S. C. from the committee of ways and means, introduced the following report and bill:

"The Committee of Ways and Means who have been instructed to enquire into 'the expediency of amending the act entitled 'An act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage,' so far as it relates to the duties on tonnage," Report,

"That it appears by a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, which accompanies this report, that under the construction put by the Treasury Department upon 'the Act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage,' the duty paid upon foreign vessels entering the ports of the United States, has been two dollars per ton, as well since as before the 30th of June last. The committee have no hesitation in recommending to the House a bill, which will make the rate of duty upon tonnage of vessels engaged in a

trade, which is open to American navigation, the same as is provided by the act of July 20th, 1790. By this act the duty upon vessels of the United States entering from a foreign port, is 6 cents per ton; on vessels built within the United States, after 20th day of July, 1789, but belonging wholly or in part to subjects of foreign powers, 30 cents per ton; and on other vessels, 50 cents per ton. This low rate of duty cannot prudently be applied to vessels engaged in a trade between the United States and ports from which American tonnage is excluded. The subject of such trade has been referred to the committee on foreign relations, and the second section of the bill proposed is intended only to continue it in the state in which it has been placed by the construction of the act of the last session, until that committee can have time to mature a more extensive and adequate remedy for the embarrassments of our navigation. The bill proposed, contains a reference to the act of 1790, instead of a repetition of its enactments. A different course, though it might be more regular, would spread upon the statute book many minute provisions, which the passage of a navigation law, before the close of the session, might modify or repeal."

### UNIFORM BANKRUPT LAW.

Mr. Hopkinson, of Pa. from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill "to establish an uniform system of Bankruptcy."

The bill received the usual readings and commitment.

### COMPENSATION TO LATE OFFICERS.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the Military Committee, reported

A BILL making donations of land to the disbanded Officers of the late Army.

### THE EXCISE ON SPIRITS.

Mr. Hardin, of Ky. rose to propose a resolution to the house. His object in offering it thus early was, that Congress might not make such an impression on the public funds as to make his motion inapplicable. He said he discovered, from the President's Message, that after meeting every demand on the Treasury, and many of them were of an extraordinary character, arising from the late war, there would remain in the Treasury at the close of the year, an excess of nine millions of dollars; and also that, on making a fair and accurate calculation of the amount necessary to support the civil list, military and naval establishments, paying the interest, and gradually redeeming the principal of the public debt, there would remain a surplus of five millions of dollars beyond the necessary annual expenditure. In that case, the excise could certainly be dispensed with. He therefore meant to make a motion to bring into view that object, before some extraordinary disposition was made of the public money: inasmuch, as there was already on the table, a bill to establish a National University, the first cost of which was to be 200,000 dollars, without taking into view its endowment; another bill for three or four additional Military Academies, which would cost the nation between five



hundred thousand and a million of dollars, another for a corps of invalids of 2000 men, which is to cost a million a year or more; and a proposition to commute the bounties of land, given to the soldiers into specie, which will cost perhaps ten millions more. He wished first to see the excise taken off, and then, if any surplus remained, they might talk if they choose, about military academies and invalid corps. After adding, that the tax in question was a peculiarly oppressive one, and operated with great inequality, Mr. H. offered the following resolution, with a view to call for the consideration of it at a future day.

*Resolved*, That it is expedient to repeal the act, entitled, "An act to repeal the existing duties on licenses to distillers, and to lay other duties in lieu of those at present imposed on licenses to distillers of spirituous liquors," except such parts thereof as may enable the government to collect the sums now due under said act, or may become due before the repeal of said act takes effect.

The question being stated, on ordering this resolve to lie on the table—

Mr. Lowndes, of S. C. said he was glad of the course the gentleman from Kentucky had given to his resolution, supposing that he meant to permit it to lie on the table until the annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury should come before the House. When that report should arrive the view from which the gentleman from Ky. and the House would take of that subject, would be different from that which they would now take. By inferences, drawn from the amount received into the Treasury, and not the amount actually accrued; from an amount from which no deductions were made for claims to come in under appropriations of the last session—he was satisfied an erroneous impression had been made on the House by the Message, both in reference to the disposable surplus in the Treasury, and to the proportion between the annual expences and the annual receipts in the Treasury. From the surplus estimated, must be deducted the amount of appropriations for the payment of demands not yet rendered, but forming claims on that surplus. On a full examination and due estimate of the expences and future receipts into the Treasury, Mr. L. said he was satisfied even the gentleman from Kentucky would entertain views of this subject widely different from those he now expressed.

The motion of Mr. Hardin lies on the table.

#### COMMISSIONER OF CLAIMS.

Mr. Forsyth, of Geo. again called for the consideration of the motion, made by him a few days ago, to request the President to order the commissioner of claims to suspend the execution of the act under which he was appointed, until Congress should have acted on that subject.

The House having agreed to consider that resolve, a debate arose, desultory but animated, which continued for more than two hours.

The result of the debate was to leave the question where it found it, the resolution being ordered to be laid on the table.

The speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting, in compliance with an order of the house at the last session, a plan of a system for the organization and discipline of the militia of the U. States; which, a motion of Mr. Harrison of Ohio, was referred to the military committee.

The House adjourned to Monday.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Henry," in his remarks, on the last exhibition at the *Forum*, is too unmerciful. If in what he says of the disputants there be not "aught set down in malice," it would be cruel to publish his communication. But if, as we rather incline to believe, his pencil had been suffered to run too much into *caricature*, it would be doing the young gentlemen real *injustice*. We consider moreover that this Institution is worthy of encouragement; and therefore, no sneers against it can appear upon the face of this paper. "*Nascitur Poeta: Orator fit.*" A failure in a first or second or third, nay in a *twentieth* attempt is not decisive. A man of good sound discriminating understanding, and of generous feelings, need never despair of becoming a respectable public speaker. Some who might become so, confounded and disheartened by a failure at the outset, have never dared to venture again. They have disappointed themselves; and afterwards their ambition sinks into imbecility. Every generous man would rather in such a case, soothe and encourage, than utterly to destroy all future effort, by openly and publicly pointing the finger of scorn, and directing the sneer of derision at one who, it is to be supposed, already suffers sufficiently from inward mortification. It is worthier to furnish a staff to the weak, than to put a stumbling block in his way.

We are for the most part, pleased with "Henry's" Communications; and his last, is, we assure him reluctantly rejected.

We received some time ago, a communication from "*A cidevant Teacher*;" relative to Mr. Hamilton's new plan of teaching the French language in forty eight lessons. This letter is well written, but we do not feel ourselves competent to decide upon the truth of some very material assertions made by the author. If Mr. Hamilton's system be indeed as defective as our Correspondent asserts, we would willingly open our columns to the exposure of its defects. But, as we do not wish, upon light grounds, to interfere with what constitutes the means of livelihood to an individual, we must request the "*Teacher*" to favor us with a call. His name, if he wishes it, shall not be disclosed. We require only to be *satisfied*, when we publish this letter, that we publish only what is *strictly correct*.

*Bankrupt Bill.*—The reign of error has been rapidly passing away. And we hope that soon, no further traces of it will remain. Democracy is not indeed so great a favorite with us, as to induce us to declare it perfect. Far otherwise. It is for its recovery from



old errors and sins, not for it we wish to from new transgressions, that's exemption commend it. To sensible and upright men, nothing could possibly appear to be so much the result either of insanity or wickedness, as its opposition to the *funding system*; to the *internal revenue*; to the *Navy*; to an *Army*; to an *independent judiciary*, and a *convenient number of judges*; and finally to a *National Bank*. In fact democracy objected formerly to every construction of the constitution which was necessary to the developement of its powers; and to every system of political action, which was necessary to draw forth the national resources, for the purpose of cultivating the national prosperity. Sad and woful experience has, however, taught it a lesson, which the precepts of wisdom were, in vain, exhausted to inculcate. But at length the great and leading principles, upon which HAMILTON put the machinery of the constitution into action, are acknowledged and adopted; and we think a just hope is thus furnished us, that the age of captious political empiricism, and fantastic theory is at an end. As to federalism its destiny is strange and paradoxical: Its principles are universally adopted, its original supporters universally rejected. Cassandra always spoke truth, but was never believed. Federalists were always right, but will never be trusted.

After having repented of so many errors, and made attonement for them, we are not without a hope, that democracy will not be checked in its reformation, but finally abandon all its former follies.

Whether we consider "*an uniform system of Bankruptcy*," as an establishment legitimately and necessarily incident to a nation highly commercial; or whether we take a view of the deranged condition of commercial houses, resulting from the strange and unexampled embarrassments and afflictions to which American commerce has, for the last ten years, been subjected, we shall find, that some general plan by which creditors may compel a surrender of effects by the debtor; and by which the debtor, upon such surrender, may be liberated from his shackles, is absolutely required by this nation. And we cannot but hope, that sufficient wisdom may be found in Congress, in the present convalescent state of its intellects, to despise the ridiculous objections which were formerly made to "*an uniform system of Bankruptcy*." The charge of *inconsistency* should now be no objection. There has been already so much of that, that we really think a blush need not be excited by despatching what remains to be done. And we take occasion here to assure the administration, that federalists, however *individually persecuted*, do not behold the instances we have enumerated of democratic reformation, without pleasure or approbation.

The federalists are men neither selfish nor revengeful. They are capable forgetting much *private injury* done by those who show a disposition to promote the general good.

Extract of a letter, received by a respectable gentleman in Newburyport, dated Buenos Ayres, Sept. 12, 1816.

"There will be great rejoicing here in a few days on account of the Independence of those united provinces, which has recently been declared in great state; but the minds of those patriots are so unsettled that it is uncertain how long it will be ere another revolution takes place; there is no danger, however, of its coming into the hands of old Spain again. This market is in a most horrid state, and glutted with every kind of produce and merchandize, European, Indian, and from the United States. Even the most staple article will scarcely bring cost and charges, and no profit whatever will arise from the returns."

From the Philadelphia Gazette, Dec. 14.

Another most villainous attempt to set fire to our city was made in the course of last night.—The villains got into the rear of those valuable stores in Market, between Fourth and Fifth-sts. by clambering over the walls; and appear very deliberately, to have kindled a fire in the cellar window of Messrs. Cope's store. Fortunately it did not spread, or the loss of property might have been immense. What would have added to the conflagration in that neighbourhood, is, that a gunpowder warehouse is not many yards distant from the spot. It may not be improper, while noticing this subject, to recommend to the patrols particular vigilance in examining the different alleys, courts, &c. where the midnight incendiaries are probably lurking.

Extract of a letter, dated 14th November, from a respectable house in New-Orleans.

"Our harbor is now full of vessels, and a great number reported in the river; British vessels are offering to take cotton at a very low freight—Very little produce yet in market."

#### IMPORTANT TO LABORING EMIGRANTS.

Extract of a letter from Washington, dated Dec. 5.

"Whilst on this subject, I would mention, that the United States' great turnpike road from Cumberland, on the Potomac, to Wheeling on the Ohio, affords ample employment for any number of laborers that could be sent there. The work has been hitherto chiefly done by Irish.—Its prosecution on a more extended and rapid scale, has been determined on. Industrious laborers get there one dollar and a quarter per day, whilst living is course much less than it is on the seaboard."

CHARLESTON, Dec.

Arrived at this port, brig Edward B. m, Leader, 15 days from Antigua. The ship Hercules, commanded by Admiral Br n, in consequence of a Portuguese fleet ng in the south seas, and to refit, put in barba-does, but not being allowed to re there.



had proceeded for St. Bartholomews. When off Antigua, she was taken by the Brazen sloop of war, Captain Sterling, and carried into Antigua, where vessel and cargo were condemned—valued at \$542,000. The Plague continued to rage at Point Petre, Guadeloupe, with increased violence; Gen Sir James Leith, the Governor, had fallen a sacrifice to it, and the second in command had prohibited any vessels from entering the port—Most of the French troops landed there had died. Nov. 30, lat. 37, long. 72, spoke British brig Almira, 14 days from Turks-Island bound to New-York. *Prices current at Antigua, 22d Nov.*—Corn per bush. \$2 50; Rice, per cwt. \$10; Flour per bbl. 24; Tobacco, per hhd. 30; Staves per thousand, 62; Shingles, per do 15; Sugar, per cwt. 9 50; Rum, old, per gal 2 50 to 3; do new, do 2 25.

### THE TREASURY.

*Extract of a Report of the late Secretary of the Treasury to the President of the United States; accompanying the President's Message to Congress.*

The Secretary of the Treasury has the honor to submit to the President of the United States the following general sketch of the finances, with reference to the 1st of August, 1816, comprehending—

- I. A view of the sources of revenue, and the objects of public expenditure.
- II. A view of the fiscal measures during 1816.

#### I. A View of the sources of Revenue, and the objects of Public Expenditure.

##### REVENUE.

The return of peace enabling the Legislature to alleviate the burdens imposed by the necessities of the war, Congress, during the last session, discontinued or reduced the following duties and taxes:

1. The acts imposing duties upon articles of domestic manufacture, were repealed.
2. The acts imposing duties on furniture and watches, were repealed.
3. The duties imposed on licences to retailers of foreign merchandize, &c. were repealed.
4. The duties imposed on spirits, distilled within the United States, were reduced, and the collection modified.
5. The rates of postage were reduced.
6. The direct tax was reduced from 6,000,000 of dollars to 3,000,000 of dollars, and was imposed for one year only.
7. The double duties on merchandize imported were discontinued, and a new tariff established.

The discontinuance and reduction of the duties and taxes, (independent of the impost,) may be estimated at the annual amount

of 8,000,000 dollars; with the contingent diminution of 3,000,000 dollars more, if the direct tax should not be continued after the year 1816.

But the remaining sources of revenue were ample for the maintenance of the public credit, and the prosecution of a liberal and provident policy. They consist—

1. Of the customs, including the duty upon salt, according to the new tariff of duties.
2. Of the direct tax imposed for 1816.
3. Of the internal duties on stamps; on licenses to retail; on spirits distilled; on refined sugar; on carriages and harness; on sales at auction.
4. Of postage.
5. Of the product of fines, penalties and forfeitures, and other miscellaneous receipts.
6. Of the proceeds of the sales of public lands.

To these sources of revenue must be added the auxiliary authority to issue treasury notes of various denominations, and to receive money upon loan. The authority was necessary, in anticipation of the revenue, throughout the year 1815, to meet the arrearages of the war expenditures; to discharge the floating public debt of treasury notes and temporary loans, and to pay the instalments of the principal and the interest of the funded public debt. But the treasury would no longer require the aid of loans or treasury notes, if the facilities of transferring its funds, from place to place, had not been destroyed when the national currency became extinct.

The committee of Ways and Means have heretofore estimated the annual product of the customs, according to the new tariff of duties, at about the sum of 17,000,000 dollars, and although, for the present year, the amount will be much greater, in consequence of the late excessive importations, the estimate of the committee may be accepted as a just measure of the permanent annual product of the customs, for the purposes of a peace establishment. The annual product of the direct tax, the internal revenues, and the sales of public lands, has, in like manner, been estimated at about the sum of 7,000,000 dollars; making, upon this general view, and supposing a continuance of the direct tax, a permanent annual revenue of about 24,000,000 dollars.

##### EXPENDITURE.

It is not intended, in this preliminary view of the objects of public expenditure, to embrace the temporary objects arising from the war, but those only of a permanent nature, upon a peace establishment; and which have heretofore been estimated at an annual aggregate of about 24,000,000 dollars.



1. For civil, diplomatic and miscellaneous expenses.
2. For military expenses, including the Indian department, and the armament of the militia.
3. For the naval expenses, including the annual appropriations for the purchase of timber and the gradual increase of the navy.
4. For the instalments and interest payable on the funded public debt.

It is proper to remark, that temporary loans and treasury notes, issued under the authority of acts passed prior to December, 1814, were charged on the sinking fund; but as the current revenue will afford the means to satisfy those demands, in the course of a few months, the floating debt is not enumerated with the objects of annual expenditure.

It is also proper to remark, that the principal of the Louisiana stock is reimbursable at the treasury of the United States in four annual instalments, commencing in 1818: and that, by the operation of the sinking fund, the old six per cent. stock will be extinguished in 1818: the deferred stock in 1824; and the Louisiana stock in 1822. The stock created on account of the war debt is charged upon the sinking fund, and becomes redeemable at various periods, between the years 1825 and 1828.

For the details connected with this general view of the sources of revenue, and the objects of public expenditure, it is sufficient to refer to the annual report from the Treasury Department, dated the 6th of December, 1815; the report on the subject of the new tariff of duties, dated the 12th of February, 1816; and the report of the committee of Ways and Means, dated the 9th day of January, 1816. The sequel of the present sketch of the finances will likewise serve the purposes of explanation and illustration.

## II. *A view of the Fiscal Measures during 1816.*

In various communications from this department to Congress, the injurious effects of the suspension of payments in coin, upon the administration of the finances, have been anxiously represented. For the immediate object of the present statement, it is proper to repeat some of them.

I. The Treasury has been compelled to accept the payment of duties and taxes in the local currency of the respective places of payment.

The comparative value of the local currencies appeared, in some degree, to render this course of payment unequal; but the alternative was either to adopt it, or to abandon the hope of collecting the revenue in any convertible medium, for satisfying the public engagements. The rule was, therefore declared that the Treasury would receive and pay, in the notes of banks circulating at

par, at the respective places of receiving and paying. For a time, the test of the fact, that the notes did circulate at par, was the agreement of the banks employed as the depositories, to credit them as cash in the treasurer's accounts. But when the principal banks withdrew that accommodation, and refused to credit as cash any bank notes but those which they had themselves respectively issued, the fact of the circulation at par was necessarily left to its own notoriety, and to the official responsibility of the collectors. Few notes, except the notes of the local banks, continued to circulate at par; and such as did so circulate, were received by the banks, upon special deposits, for safe keeping; constituted a discredited fund, upon which the Treasurer could only occasionally draw.

The operation of this measure was, undoubtedly, severe in many of the collection districts; particularly in the States where the banks, preparing for the resumption of coin payments, had so reduced the issues of their paper, as to render the circulating amount insufficient for the demand. But it was not in the power of the Treasury to dispense with the general rule. If notes not circulating at par had been received in one district, they must have been received in every district, and there existed no mode of discriminating between notes to be received, and notes to be rejected, either as to the bank, or the place at which they were issued. The inevitable consequences must have been, that the duties and taxes would every where be paid in the most depreciated paper; and that the medium, thus received, could never be employed to discharge the demands upon the Treasury, even at the places of receiving it. The revenue would accumulate in the Treasury, only to perish there; while the expedient of substituting Treasury notes to meet the public engagements led to an indefinite augmentation of the national debt.

2. The Treasury has been compelled to augment the amount of the national debt, both funded and floating, by issues of Treasury notes to meet the public engagements, at places where it could not command the local currency. Throughout the eastern States, the Treasury has hitherto failed to command an amount of the local currency, equal to the amount of the local demands.—The banks of those states, fettered by the stipulations of their charters, could not follow the example of the banks of the other states, in the suspension of coin payments; but their issues of notes have been very limited, and the necessities for a circulating medium have been principally supplied by Treasury notes, and partially by the notes of the banks of New-York. Under these circumstances, the revenue, in the eastern section of the Union, has been almost entirely collected in Treasury notes. Inferior difficulties, from



similar causes, have occurred in some of the southern states; where, also, the accruing revenue was less in proportion to the demands, which the arrearages of the war, as well as the current expenditures, pressed upon the Treasury.

From these considerations, it is obvious that the public credit could only be maintained, and the public service could only be effected, (even with an ample revenue) by the use of the auxiliary means afforded to the Treasury, in the authority to borrow money, and to issue Treasury notes. Little use, however, has been made of the authority to borrow, since the closing of the loan, of 1815 but the warrants of the war and the navy departments, as well as the dividends payable on the public funded debt, have required a considerable issue of Treasury notes. The Treasury notes bearing interest, and fundable at 6 per cent, have been generally disbursed in payments for services and supplies; and the Treasury Notes not bearing interest but fundable at 7 per cent. have been generally disbursed in payments on account of the funded debt and the compensation of the members of Congress. The effect of these measures will be more particularly stated hereafter.

Thus, it cannot escape observation, that a cause, unconnected with the late war, and which exists without the agency or the authority of the government, will probably so augment the amount of the funded and floating debt, as to render nugatory the estimates and calculations which have been made on other occasions, in relation to that subject. The restoration of an uniform national currency can alone terminate this evil.

3. The Treasury has been involved in the difficult and delicate task of designating the medium, in which the warrants drawn by the heads of departments should be respectively paid.

The revenue is collected throughout the Union, but the amount of the collection is very different in different places; and it has happened not unfrequently, that the demand for payment was the greatest, when the means of payment were the least.

The rule which has already been mentioned, was applied, wherever it was practicable, by directing warrants to be paid at the places or rendering the services, or furnishing the supplies, for which they were respectively granted. But if the Treasury possesses no funds at those places, the differences of exchange rendered it extremely difficult to locate the payment of the warrants in a manner equitable, impartial, and satisfactory.—For some months after the war, the Treasury was scantily supplied with the local currency of every place, except the District of Columbia and the city of Baltimore; and consequently, during that period, the warrants which could not be discharged at the seat of

the original transaction, were paid in the currency of the District or of Baltimore. The progressive accumulation of the revenue opened a wider scope for payments, enabling the Treasury to draw next upon the banks of Philadelphia, and, more recently, upon the banks of New-York. The public funds in the banks of the southern and western states, having also become generally adequate to the local demands, it may now be considered that the active resources of the Treasury are co-extensive with the Union, excepting always the eastern section. The difficult task of locating the payment of warrants still, however, continues, and must continue, as long as the differences of exchange shall operate. It is fiscally impossible to pay all the demands upon the Treasury at one place; and every holder of a warrant is naturally desirous to be paid at the place where the medium is of the highest current value. Under such circumstances, it is to be expected that individuals will sometimes feel disappointment, and express dissatisfaction; but it has been constant and anxious endeavor of the Treasury to perform its arduous task, with the exercise of a sound discretion, guided by the requisitions of the departments, by the origin and nature of the debts, and by the state of the public funds.

4. The Treasury has been compelled to encrease the number, and extend the range of banks employed as the depositories of the public revenue, with consequences unavoidably inconvenient and injurious.

As soon as the differences of the current value of bank notes were introduced, and particularly when one bank refused to credit, as cash, a deposit of the notes of another, the Treasury was driven to a choice of expedients, that is, either to take the hazard of the accumulation of masses of revenue in the hands of the individual collectors and receivers, or to recognize as places of deposit, the banks (being, however, banks of unquestioned solidity,) established in the districts which were most affected by the course of exchanges. Many powerful reasons, led to an adoption of the latter measure; instructions were issued to the collectors and receivers to act accordingly; and the number of banks thus necessarily employed by the Treasury, from Maine to Louisiana, may be stated at ninety-four.

To the inconveniences incident to this multiplication of the places of deposit, was added the complexity inevitably arising from the various kinds of paper in circulation as money, upon some of which minute calculations were required. Generally speaking, the Treasury has with each Bank four accounts:

An account of cash, meaning (in the absence of coin) the local currency.

An account of special deposits of bank



notes, being notes issued by Banks, other than the depository.

An account of special deposits of Treasury Notes, bearing interest.

An account of deposits of small Treasury Notes, not bearing interest.

Owing to this untoward condition of the machinery for the collection, custody, and distribution of the Revenue; to the great extension of the business of receipts and expenditures; and to several accidental causes; the punctual statement and settlement of the Treasurer's accounts have not been found practicable. To expedite and facilitate, however, the accomplishment of that object, proceedings have been instituted to withdraw the treasury notes from the Banks for the purpose of cancelling them; to ascertain the character of the Bank notes upon special deposit, for the purpose of claiming payment, or an effective credit, from the Banks which issued them; and to induce the Banks of the interior to transfer, from time to time, the Treasurer's balances to the Banks of the commercial cities on the Atlantic, for the purposes of a periodical settlement. The success of these proceedings, the operation of the Bank of the United States, the collection of the revenue in the lawful currency; and above all, the improvements contemplated by Congress in the constitution of the department; are objects of high and urgent importance, demanding constant vigilance and care.

The successive attempts made by this department to relieve the administration of the finances from its embarrassments, have been ineffectual.

There was no magic in a mere Treasury instruction to the collectors of the Revenue, which could, by its own virtue, charm gold and silver again into circulation. The people, individually did not possess a metallic medium, and could not be expected to procure it throughout the country, as well as in the cities, by any exertion, unaided by the Banks. And the Banks, too timid, or too interested, declined every overture to a co-operation, for reinstating the lawful currency. In this state of things, the Treasury, nay, the Legislature, remained passive. The power of coercing the Banks was limited to the rejection of their notes in the payment of duties and taxes, and to the exclusion of their agency in the custody and distribution of the Revenue; but the exercise of that power would not generate a coin currency, although it would certainly act oppressively upon the people, and put at hazard every sum of money, which was due the government. Until, therefore, a substitute was provided for the paper of the Banks, it would have been a measure of useless and impolitic severity towards the community, to insist that all contributions to the expenses of the government should be paid in a medium, which, it is re-

peated, the community did not possess, and could not procure.

The opinion here expressed, has been the opinion of all the States except the Eastern States. In the southern and western States the payments in coin had been suspended; and in most of them the notes of the local banks constituted the general circulating medium: for the Treasury Note medium circulated, almost exclusively in the commercial cities. The obvious difference between the situation of the eastern section and of the other sections of the Union, naturally produced a difference of interests and of dispositions upon the question of resuming payments in coin. The eastern section urged the measure at all hazards. The other sections, and particularly the middle section, objected to it; each bank professing, nevertheless, a willingness to adopt it, upon a simultaneous and general movement of the banks, directed to that object. With respect to the eastern section, a peremptory requisition for a return to payments in coin would have left the circulating medium, for the ordinary uses of the people, much the same in quantity and kind, whether the distant banks conformed to it or not. But with respect to the other sections, such a requisition, if the local banks did not conform to it, must have deprived the people of their only means of paying the public taxes, and of transacting the pecuniary business of life. It was not, then, an insensibility to the pernicious course of banking which had of late been pursued, nor a disposition to relinquish the cardinal policy of restoring the lawful national currency, that induced this department, during the year 1815, to acquiesce in the state of the currency, such as it was found when the present Secretary was appointed, and such as it had been left by Congress, after the deliberations of a six months session; but the acquiescence, painful as it was, proceeded entirely from a sense of duty to the government, and of justice to the community; from a solicitude to preserve the public revenue, as well as to prevent private distress; and from a conviction, that the legislative wisdom and authority were alone competent to provide the means of removing the great evil that existed, without incurring the danger of introducing a greater evil.

The result of the proceedings of the last session of Congress, has justified the opinion, and realized the hope, which were formed. The establishment of the Bank of the United States will open the sources of an uniform currency, independent of the State Banks; and, as the people will be thus supplied with a medium which can be used for every public and private purpose, the peremptory requisition of the resolution of Congress, for the collection of the revenue in the lawful money of the United States, after the 20th of Feb-



ruary, 1817, becomes, at once, just, politic, and practicable.

The steps which were taken to organize the Bank of the United States; the early and satisfactory completion of the subscriptions to the capital, and the advertisement appointing the 28th of the ensuing October, for the election of directors by the stockholders, have been heretofore communicated to the President, together with the letter which was addressed to the Bank Commissioners at Philadelphia, recommending that they should provide a place, and the materials proper and requisite for commencing the operations of the institution, as soon as the directors shall be chosen. The general solidity of the subscribers, as capitalists, and the extensive distribution of the stock throughout the Union, have confirmed the public hope and confidence in the competency of the Bank to accomplish the great objects for which it is established.

As soon as it appeared, upon a reasonable calculation, that the subscription to the capital of the Bank of the United States would be filled, a proposition was offered to the consideration of the State Banks, for commencing the payments of small sums in coin on the first of October next, upon the principles, which, with the approbation of all the members of the administration, were stated in the report made to the President on the 24th of June, 1816. The terms of the resolution of Congress seemed indeed to require, from the Treasury Department, an effort to facilitate the restoration of the lawful currency, even before the 20th of February, 1817; and, short of a general return to that currency, nothing was thought more likely to be acceptable and useful, than the proposition in question. But the effort has failed. The State Banks, with a few exceptions, have deemed a partial resumption of coin payments inexpedient; and the Banks of the middle states (New-York, Pennsylvania and Maryland) have intimated that the first of July, 1817, will be the proper period for resuming the banking operations on the basis of a metallic capital.

The rejection of the Treasury proposition is regretted. Upon principle, there is no good reason why a debtor should not pay a part of his debts, although he cannot pay the whole; nor why he should refuse to pay his small debts, because he cannot pay the large. Upon experience, Banks (for instance at this epoch, the Bank of England) have been in the practice of paying coin for their notes of a low denomination, while they refused that kind of payment for notes of a high denomination. And upon policy, it is clear, that the payment of small notes in coin would soon beget confidence in Bank paper of any amount; and consequently, render a general payment in coin easy and safe.

The quantity of small notes abroad; the probability of a run through that medium, upon the Banks; and all the terrors which bankers and brokers may feel, or imagine, will furnish no argument against the proposition, for a partial resumption of coin payments, at this time, which will not be more forcible against a general resumption at all times. But it is impossible to pass from disease to health, without some suffering; and the Banks cannot expect to recover from the disorders of the present banking system, without encountering risks, and impairing profits. The rejection of the proposition has, however, constrained the Treasury to limit its ex-

ertions to preparatory arrangements, for the general collection of the revenue in the lawful currency, after the day prescribed by the Legislature.

But, referring the period for a general resumption of payments, in coin, to a day so distant as the first of July, 1817, (several months subsequent to the time prescribed by Congress for the collection of the revenue, in the lawful currency, as well as to the time when the operations of the Banks of the United States might be expected to commence) is a measure of the most serious character; indicating a dangerous reliance of the State Banks upon a change in the policy, or a relaxation in the energy of the Legislative authority. Its effects, if unresisted, or if fostered by a temporizing disposition on the part of the government must be to embarrass the Bank of the United States in the onset; to confine the issues of the notes of the National Bank to the amount of the coin in its vaults; to deprive the people of the means of complying with the resolution of Congress, for the collection of the revenue in coin; and to preserve to the State Banks an illegitimate control over the money and currency of the nation. To the wisdom, patriotism and virtue of Congress, therefore, an appeal must be made; nor can it be supposed, that the state authorities will remain insensible to so calamitous a state of things. The powers of the government, vigorously and steadily exercised, are ample for redress and relief, and it is yet to be hoped, that the State Banks will perceive and avoid the ruinous consequences, to which the threatened conflict inevitably exposes them.

The second instalment of the subscription to the Bank of the United States, being paid; the price of gold and silver being obviously in a rapid course of reduction; the means possessed by the banks to reinstate their metallic capital, being faithfully applied to that object; a spirit of mutual conciliation and good will actuating the national and state institutions; and, in short, a solid foundation for public confidence being thus laid, what have the State Banks to apprehend from a return to coin payments, when the National Bank shall commence similar payments (say in January next) or when similar payments shall be exacted from the people, in the collection of duties and taxes, on the 20th of February, which will not be equally operative on the 1st of July, 1817? The sincerity and the honor of the directors of the State Banks, who have proposed the last date as the proper period for the all-important reform contemplated, will not be impeached or doubted; but there is no legal obligation to conform to the proposition; and the occurrence of new incidents, or the perception of other views, may hereafter be thought to justify a change of counsel and of conduct. There is then no security for the government, or the community, but in the inflexible adherence to the system which Congress has adopted.

Having reviewed the general course of the Treasury, as connected with the state of the currency, it becomes proper to exhibit, more particularly, the fiscal results—1st, in relation to the appropriations and payments for the year 1816; 2dly, in relation to the receipts at the Treasury in 1816; 3dly, in relation to the public debt; and 4thly, in relation to the miscellaneous business of the department. It must, however, be remembered, that until the accounts of the Treasurer shall be finally balanced and settled, the



statements which have been officially furnished by the register, for the immediate purposes of the present report, are to be regarded in the light of estimates, subject to such changes as the ultimate examination of the accounting officers may produce. But it is not believed that any essential variance will occur.

(to be continued.)

From the Charleston Courier of Dec. 9.

**REPORT OF  
ACTUAL SALES FOR WEEK PAST.  
HOME PRODUCTIONS.**

Cotton—Sea-Island, 37 1-2 cents per lb.  
Santee, &c. 33 a 35.

Short Staple, 24 a 25 1-2.

Rice—prime, \$5.—Second quality, 4 3-4.

Flour—Philadelphia, superfine, \$14.

Richmond, 13.

Baltimore, 13.

Country, (Camden)—14.

Fayetteville, 12 1-2.

Corn—\$1 75 per bush.

Oats, 90 cents.

Tobacco—(Inspected) New 6 a 8.

Tar—\$1 75 a 2 per barrel.

Pitch—\$2 1-2 a 3.

Turpentine—Hard \$2, Soft 2 1-2.

Rosin—\$2 1-2 a 3.

**REMARKS.**

*Dry Goods*—Continue heavy; fine Flannels and Calicoes, and London Duffel Blankets, are the only articles which sell. The number of purchasers from the country is unusually small.

*Groceries*.—No variation in the prices of Rum or Gin; Brandy has advanced considerably; Molasses are also on the rise; Coffee is scarce, and has experienced a small advance; Sugars are in demand at our quotations.

*Rice*—Is quick at our quotations.

*Cotton*—Uplands sell pretty quick at prices quoted. Sea Islands too, are in good demand.

*Flour*—Is held as quoted, but sales are not very brisk.

*Corn*—Continue very scarce and high, but the present price cannot be supported long. Oats and Peas are also scarce.

*Stocks*, are rising; Exchange, dull and declining.

From the Boston Evg. Gaz. of Saturday.

The General Court were yesterday prorogued to the Tuesday next preceding the fourth Wednesday of May next.—Votes of thanks were presented to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, for the able, faithful and impartial manner in which they had discharged their various duties in the Legislature the present year; and every appropriate address were returned in answer.—The Legislature have passed 65 Acts and 97 Resolves during the session.

From a Demarara paper of Oct. 30.

A Barbadoes paper contains the following article under the head of—"A Caution to Strangers bound to Demarara."—The brig Friendship, Captain John Hinkle, from Halifax to a market, was boarded by a pilot off the bar of Demarara river, to whom he said that not expecting to sell here, he merely wished his vessel to be brought to an anchor in a safe place, that he might send in his boat to learn the state of the market; also, that he was a stranger, and had never been on this part of the coast before:—to which the said pilot answered, that it would not cost him above eight or nine guilders more to go into the river; trusting to this declaration he assented. The following list of Fees paid before he was allowed to pass the Fort outwards again, will shew the expenses incurred by this deception of the pilot, for which no redress could be got? without detention of the brig. Captain Hinkle was fortunate in having a letter of introduction to a house in Demarara, which advanced him the money, otherwise it is possible he might have been obliged to sacrifice his cargo.

Government Secretary	f. 6
Harbor Master	30
Fiscal	6
Collector	12
Comptroller	4
Naval Officer	4
Searchers and Waiters	11
Pilotage	220
Fort Pass	12

— 305

"N. B. Capt. Hinkle publishes this for the benefit of the public; and at the same time acknowledges, that the Collector and Fiscal offered to relinquish their fees provided the same would be done by others."

We are sorry that we have it not in our power to give an explanation of the precise boundaries to which the several officers attached to the above offices are limited in their charges on vessels so circumstanced: but we are apprehensive that the regulations in this respect are indefinite and ambiguous, which of course may be supposed to confer an imaginary power on the underlings of office to benefit of the ignorance of an unwary stranger. We shall be happy to avail ourselves of an explanation from the quarter complained of, which may be the means of wiping off a stigma of a very austere kind of look.

**MARRIED.**

At Brookhaven, L. I. on Wednesday evening, 14th inst. by the Rev. Mr. King, Mr. SAMUEL HOPKINS, to Miss MARIA WOODHULL, only daughter of the late Merritt S. Woodhull, Esq.

On the 11th inst. at Friend's Meeting House, Pearl street, Richard Field, (of the house of Haviland & Field.) to Miss Deborah Merritt, daughter of John Merritt, all of this city.